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THE NORTHROP LOOM AFTER THE WAR

The following extracts from a lecture by Mr. D. M. Hollins, Managing Director of the British Northrop Loom Company, before the Huddersfield Textile Society are copied from the November 2, 1918, Textile Mercury of Manchester England.

The section emphasizing

FACTS INSTEAD OF GUESSWORK

applies with equal force in this country.

“The present time, when this world-wide and most destructive of all wars draws to a close, seems to be most opportune for a Lecture on the Northrop Automatic Loom for Weaving Woollens and Worsted Fabrics. Judging

from the signs, all classes of the community are considering the reconstruction of the social and commercial conditions of humanity when the world is again at peace.

The Northrop Loom has been known for many years in this country and more particularly in Lancashire, but it has been known even longer on the Continent of Europe, as England has always been slow to take advantage of the opportunities that were presented by the introduction of automatic machinery, and looms in particular, into her factories. The Northrop Loom has been made in vast quantities and can be found today in nearly every quarter of the world.

The Northrop Loom, broadly speaking, will weave any cloth that a one shuttle loom will make, and will weave cheaper and more perfect cloth than any loom on the market that it supersedes. Since the first patents were taken out there have been great improvements effected in the details of construction, but the fundamental principles remain practically the same.

THE NORTHROP LOOM

IS ESSENTIALLY

A LABOUR=SAVING MACHINE

and, as mentioned previously, the economical and efficient employment of labour will be one of the most important problems for us to face when the war is over.

It is characteristic of an age of machinery that the average employer should regard his employees largely

as fixed values, capable perhaps of some increase in efficiency through improved methods, but fundamentally unchangeable and unchanging until they begin to wear out. We want efficiency, the maximum efficiency, from all our machines, and all our workpeople. We can calculate the maximum production possible per machine, and find out how far we fall short of this, but how about the efficiency of the individual, which is of far more importance than the efficiency of the machine? This problem is not an easy one, and the more employees we have to look after, the more difficult it becomes. The solution I believe lies in scientific management; but what is scientific management?

Scientific management means exactly this:

MANAGEMENT BY FACTS INSTEAD OF GUESSWORK.

Scientific means the gathering and organizing of the facts. It does not mean philosophy. It is the most practical plodding thing in the world, is science. If a scientist wants to know about a mineral, he studies it; he tests it; he analyses it; he masses up all the known facts about the mineral and classifies them. That is the scientific method.

In the same way a manufacturer can gather the facts about his works. He can mass up his factory facts, he can analyse them, he can organize them. He can base his management upon these organized facts. That is what scientific management means.

The result is efficiency; but what is efficiency?

The saving of energy, materials, and time; doing a job in the best, easiest, and quickest way, thus obtaining a higher percentage of results. Let us take care of cause, effect will follow as a natural consequence.

We are living in an age of progress; rapid progress in many directions; great social changes have already taken place; still more are before us. Labour is alive to its opportunities and may make demands that some of us think unreasonable. We must analyse and understand the spirit of this age. One change which we may see before long is the reduction of working hours, possibly to 8 hours a day. Will an eight-hour day reduce production and increase costs? That is what concerns us.

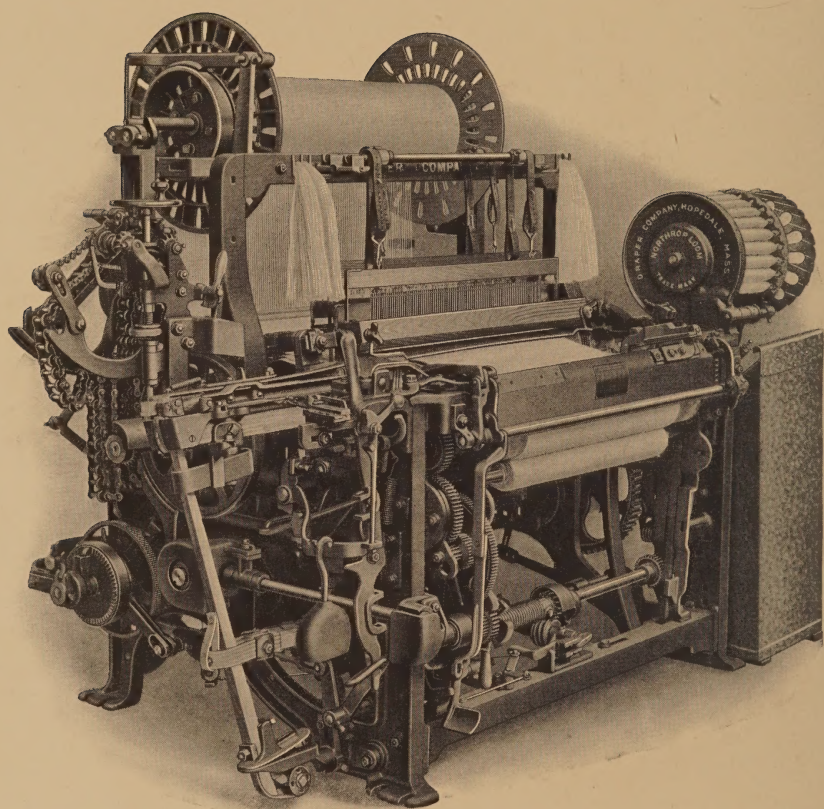
The answer to this question will vary according to the general efficiency of each establishment, as it is possible with a slight reorganization of the staff to run automatic machinery from the starting time in the morning to closing down at night, without any stoppage for meals. In this way an official eight-hour day can be turned into nine effective hours of production. Firms adopting Northrop Looms are equipping themselves to meet successfully the new conditions, and thus turn a seeming disadvantage into a real advantage. The war is piling up a huge national debt of such an overwhelming figure that none of us can really grasp its meaning, and most of us hardly dare to contemplate how we and posterity are going to pay for same.

But how can this be accomplished? Not by Government controlling and distributing the articles of commerce that already exist, but by the nation creating and producing quicker and cheaper in vastly increased

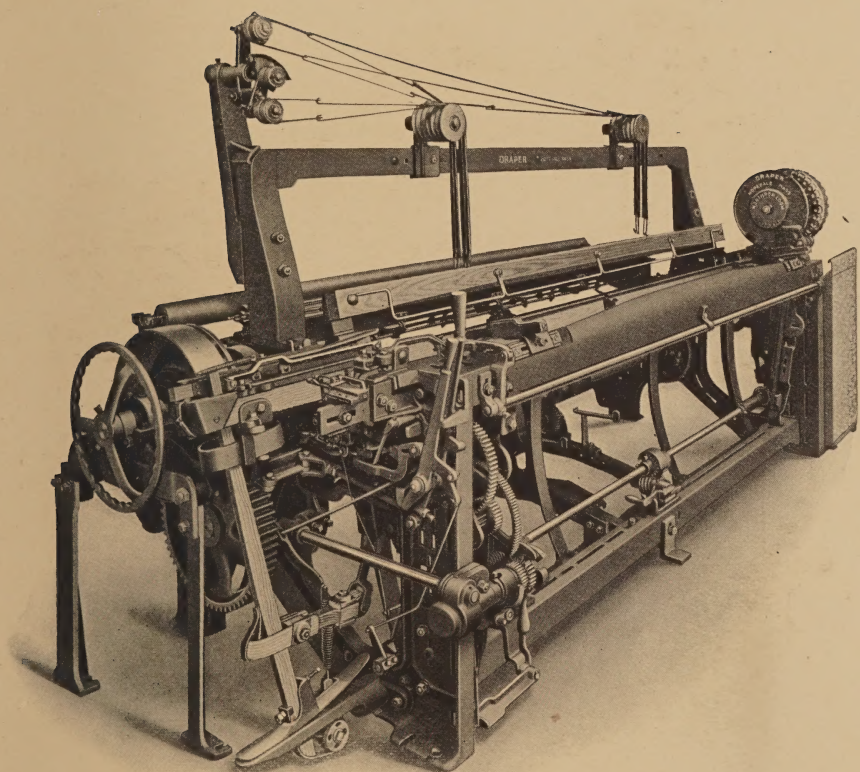
quantities the articles that mankind requires. This increase will be a means of making labour scarce, and a shortage of labour means higher wages, which in turn will bring more efficient and economical methods of manufacture.

Let us hope that this new era will result in better social conditions all round, and so far as the textile trade in Huddersfield and district is concerned, the Northrop Loom should prove an important factor in obtaining these desirable results.”

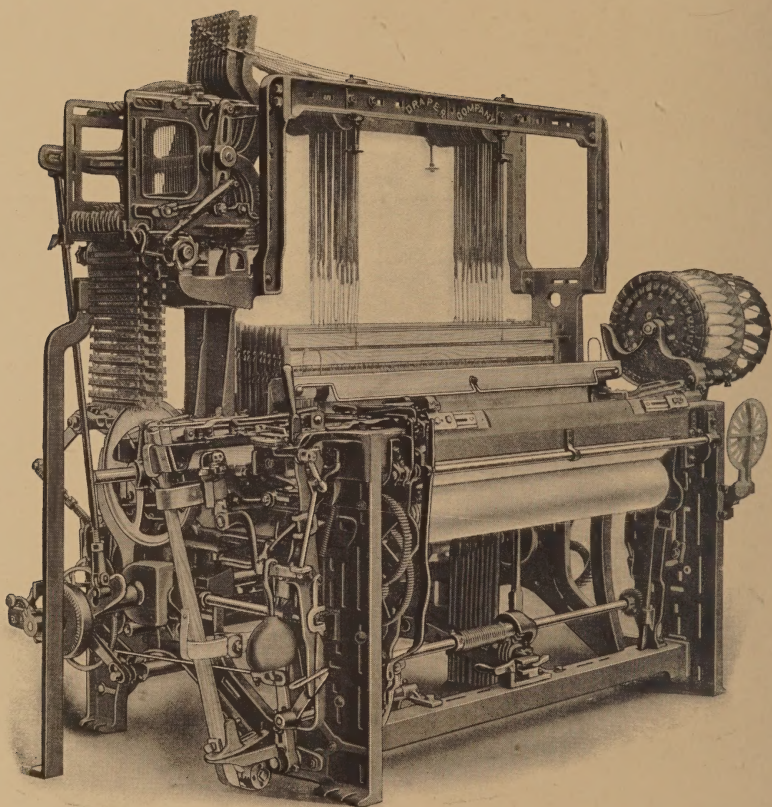




Northrop Towel Loom



Northrop Worsted Loom



Northrop Loom
with
Dobby Harness Motion

